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## Inside Track

# Biden Terminates Order That Kept China Out of America's Power Grid



*peterschreiber.media/iStock/GettyImagesPlus*

On his first day in office, President Joe Biden revoked an executive order from President Trump that was aimed at keeping away from America's bulk power systems foreign countries and firms, especially entities tied to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

The change in direction was part of Biden's "Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis."

Section 7 of the Biden order, which also includes revocation of the Keystone XL Pipeline, features termination of climate-change and energy-focused orders enacted during the Trump administration.

Subpoint C states that "Executive Order 13920 of May 1, 2020 (Securing the United States Bulk-Power System), is hereby suspended for 90 days."

The Trump order was made to ban, replace, and set new criteria on bulk-power system (BPS) electric equipment from a foreign country or foreign national that poses a national security threat. The policy "prohibited any acquisition, importation, transfer, or installation of BPS electric equipment by any person or with respect to any property to which a foreign country or a national thereof has any interest, that poses an undue risk to the BPS, the security or resiliency of U.S. critical infrastructure or the U.S. economy, or U.S. national security or the security and safety of U.S. persons."

Moreover, the Department of Energy was charged with identifying existing BPS electric equipment that violated the aforementioned prescription and "develop[ing] recommendations to identify, isolate, monitor, or replace this equipment as appropriate."

As of January 16, 2021, then-Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette issued a "prohibition order designed to reduce the risks that entities associated with the People's Republic of China pose to the Nation's BPS."

According to Biden's new executive order, Biden's secretary of energy and director of the Office of



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Management and Budget (OMB) will determine the fate of America's BPS.

Once again, Joe Biden's China-centric approach to policy is shining through. His family is closely tied to Chinese business interests.

## **Canadian Lawmaker Ousted From Party for Questioning Lockdowns**



*Twitter/RomanBaber*

The premier of Ontario, Canada, has kicked a provincial parliamentarian out of his political party for publicly questioning coronavirus lockdowns.

On January 15, Member of Provincial Parliament Roman Baber posted on Twitter an open letter to Ontario Premier Doug Ford imploring Ford to lift the lockdown orders that he has imposed to one degree or another since last spring. The latest order, issued January 14, "has effectively placed the province under a state of near-total lockdown," reported LifeSiteNews.

Baber opened his letter with these strong but accurate words: "The medicine is killing the patient."

"The Lockdown isn't working," he wrote. "It's causing an avalanche of suicides, overdoses, bankruptcies, divorces and takes an immense toll on our children. Dozens of leading doctors implored you to end the Lockdowns."

"The Lockdowns," he declared, "are objectively deadlier than Covid." He then cited statistics to back up his contention.

Hours later, Ford officially booted Baber from the Ontario Progressive Conservative (PC) Party, of which both were members, and banned him from ever running for office as a member of the party again.

"Mr. Baber's comments are irresponsible," Ford said in a statement. "By spreading misinformation he is undermining the tireless efforts of our frontline health-care workers at this critical time, and he is putting people at risk. I will not jeopardize a single Ontarian's life by ignoring public health advice."

Apparently that does not include advice such as the Great Barrington Declaration, a statement



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published October 4, 2020, and signed by over 50,000 medical and public-health scientists and medical practitioners that calls on governments to end their lockdowns, which it says “are producing devastating effects on short and long-term public health.”

Baber appears to have been unfazed by his ouster from the PC Party. After Ford announced it, Baber tweeted: “The Lockdown is grounded in false public health narrative, poor planning & bad data. While Doug only cares about re-election, Lockdowns are killing more than saving. I couldn’t watch the suffering anymore. I hope I encouraged other professionals to speak out.”

## **Switzerland to Hold Referendum on Government’s Pandemic Powers**



*extravagantni/iStock/Getty Images Plus*

In Switzerland, campaigners have gained enough signatures to force a national referendum on the government’s power to impose lockdowns and other freedom-suppressing measures on the citizenry. The referendum would decide the fate of the 2020 COVID-19 Act, which was passed in late September.

The group *Freunden der Verfassung* (Friends of the Constitution) had garnered more than 90,000 signatures for the petition as of January 14, far in excess of the 50,000 needed to vote on the repeal. A vote is expected as early as June of this year.

Under Swiss law, the outcome of the vote will be legally binding. According to Friends of the Constitution, no other people are likely to be given the opportunity to have a direct say on their government’s responses to the pandemic. “Swiss voters can vote on government measures to combat COVID-19. This right will probably not be granted to any other people in the world,” said the group.

Friends of the Constitution has argued that the government is using the pandemic to enact sweeping reforms that are unnecessary, ineffective, and potentially even dangerous to the nation’s population.

“The long term problems that will arise from this kind of approach will be grave. We are a movement that says crisis management cannot be done without the will of the sovereign — the people. You cannot govern without the people,” said Christoph Pfluger, a board member of Friends of the Constitution.

Opponents of the campaign to do away with the COVID-19 Act argue that by the time the referendum is voted on, it’s highly likely that the virus will be in retreat, thus negating any need for the reforms



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instituted during the pandemic.

But last year, they told us we'd have to stay at home for two weeks in order to flatten the curve, and look where we are now. Any argument that COVID-19 restrictions will not be needed because the virus will be under control by a specified time is ridiculous at this point.

## YouTube “Thumbs Down” Show Myth of Biden’s Popularity



If you go strictly by the numbers, new President Joe Biden, having supposedly garnered 81 million votes in the November election, should be the most popular president in American history — and by a wide margin. Unfortunately, his popularity on YouTube just after his inauguration told a different story.

YouTube, the video-sharing service owned by Google, gives users the opportunity to give either a “thumbs up” or “thumbs down” on each video posted to the site. In the first few days of President Biden’s administration, the supposedly wildly popular president’s videos received thumbs down by a four-to-one margin over thumbs up.

Since the new administration took over the official White House YouTube channel on Inauguration Day, January 20, the site’s administrators had posted 14 videos as of January 24. Each of those videos had significantly more thumbs down than thumbs up. This is odd for a brand-new president who is supposedly the most popular president in history by number of votes received.

As of January 24, the number of thumbs up for 13 videos featuring Biden and staff members was 71,000. The thumbs down numbered more than 313,000. The most viewed video was the first one, with more than 730,000 views. It features President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris being sworn in to office, and had received 13,000 thumbs up compared with 66,000 thumbs down.

By way of comparison, a 23-second video of Donald Trump thanking law enforcement at the southern border, which was posted the week before Biden’s inauguration, received more than 32,000 thumbs up compared with 4,000 thumbs down.

It’s easy and quite possibly correct to blame the wide disparity between thumbs up and thumbs down for Biden’s videos on disgruntled Trump supporters who are still feeling cheated out of an election they firmly believe they won. But if President Biden is so incredibly popular as to have received 81 million votes in November, shouldn’t those angry Trump supporters be drowned out by the new president’s



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admirers?





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